



Court Appointed Special Advocates

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Vol. 3, Issue 8

A Child's Voice In Court

September 2000

A Message from Judge Eileen Willett.....

When people ask me what I do for a living and I tell them I'm a Juvenile Court Judge, I usually get the following response, "I don't know how you **stand** it. It must be **so sad** to work with those poor children." Since coming to the Juvenile Division, I must admit I have been assigned cases of such enormous importance that I am humbled to preside over them. We have all seen children and families who are burdened with poverty, mental illness, addiction, abuse and neglect far beyond their abilities to successfully cope alone. But I tell those grimacing friends of mine a little secret: Juvenile Court is the most hopeful, positive place I have ever had the good fortune to work.

The reason Juvenile Court is so positive is because of all the efforts, energy and strength of the volunteers and professionals who strive to make a difference for children, one child at a time. **You may be called Court Appointed Special Advocates on the forms, but to me you are Court Appointed Special Angels.** The most amazing thing about each of you is, when commended for all your hard work, you each will turn to me with surprise and say, "Oh, I just wish I could do more." As if you hadn't already moved mountains. As if you hadn't already forever changed the life of a child.

Seeing me in Court is such a small part of what you do when advocating for your CASA child. When you are in Court, I hope you feel comfortable talking with me. I am so glad when you can come. I am honored to share some thoughts with you as we work together to help our children.

- ♦ **Never be afraid to talk to me in Court.** You are my eyes and ears on our child's life. You have spent more time with our child than most of the people who appear for hearings. You have a truly unique perspective that I need for you to share. Just tell me what's on your mind. Be blunt. I will always ask you if you have anything to add. If I don't, I should have. Just raise your hand, and I'll listen. Your reports are wonderful, too. Please don't feel constrained to sit silently through the entire hearing just because you wrote a report.
- ♦ **Feel free to share the details that make our child so special.** His or her t-ball triumphs, collections, or favorite books are so important in getting a feel for his or her needs. Tell me about those new bikes or music lessons from Friends of Foster Children. That first job is a real accomplishment that I should recognize. When I review a file, I take notes from all of the reports. I keep my notes from every hearing, too. I try to keep track of progress not only regarding the parents' compliance with the case plan and services that should be in place, but also with regard to how our child is doing in school, in his or her new placement and extracurricular activities.

(See Message pg 2)



Juvenile Court Judge
Eileen Willett

"Juvenile Court is the most hopeful, positive place I have ever had the good fortune to work."

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FREE AND FUN!

Opportunities for CASAs and Their CASA Children

.. by Ashley Lies

Do you ever feel like you spend too much money on your CASA child or that you're about to visit them on the weekend and you're out of inexpensive ideas for a few hours of fun. These are thoughts that often roam through my mind, so you can imagine how thrilled I was recently when I found out that CASA has been making valid efforts to provide volunteers with fun things to do with their CASA children at no cost or a very minimal cost. In the last couple months, the following has been offered (advertised through the newsletter):

- 200 donated backpacks - some with school supplies
- A visit to 'Made of Clay' where children got to choose and paint pottery that they kept free of charge.
- 100 free admission tickets for a visit to the Arizona Science Center.
- Free arts training class where CASAs learned art projects to do with your CASA child.
- Using this information, you're CASA child's work can be displayed at the Arizona State Capitol.

My CASA children and I have participated in several events sponsored by CASA including the annual CASA picnic and other outings in which we both have had wonderful experiences and a lot of fun. My CASA kids have never had the opportunity to paint their own pottery or see a meteor shower at a science center.

I was stunned to learn that so few volunteers are taking part in these special offers. The more support we give to these events by participating in sponsored outings and taking advantage of community donated items, the more the CASA office will try to provide these perks.



And more importantly, we not only take steps towards solving our budget problems and lists of things to do that have been done over and over again, we give our CASA children new and memorable experiences.

Message continued from Page 1

- ♦ **Feel free to share pictures of our children with me in Court.** Their faces tell me so much. I enjoy those school pictures or captured on film sibling visits. It is one more way I have of remembering our child and his or her needs. If you think the child would enjoy seeing me, ask me if the child may appear in Court. In many cases the children are welcome to come and join the proceeding in person. Older children often prefer to speak for themselves.
- ♦ **Remember:** You can always write a supplemental report to the Court between R&R hearings and include a recommendation for the Court.

Never doubt for a moment your ability to move mountains. Never despair for a second your limitations. You are a dream come true for each of your children and this Court. I am amazed and in awe of your collective strength, wisdom and love.

Thank you and be proud.

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Dear Editor:

There have been some recent articles about the Arizona Council for CASA Maricopa County Regional Committee. This organization is existing in our County to provide financial support enabling CASAs to be successful in their Advocacy of children. This assistance may be direct help for the child or to the CASA for special needs.

This brief message carries a special heartfelt THANKS to two CASAs who have spent many hours of work and travelled several hundreds of miles (attending meetings in Tucson) to provide this very special opportunity. Many of us had hopes of such a program for years!

Thank you to **Angela Ashley** and **Laura Lobraccio** for your continued effort and work these past couple of years to make our Council Chapter a reality! **Nancy Molever**, our CASA Program Manager, has been very encouraging and helped with Community outreach so this would happen.

Sincerely, A CASA

Mark
Your
Calendar

ARIZONA COUNCIL FOR CASA

Second Annual Golf Tournament And Silent Auction November 19, 2000

We need silent auction items.

So far we have received: a fine jewelry piece, artwork, and a weekend at a Valley resort. Suggestions for Items we need are anything of value, i.e. gift certificates for dinner at a fine restaurant or a day at a Valley Spa,, etc. (Last year a pedigreed pet was auctioned off for over \$1000!)

For more information call **480 922-1304**

(A brochure is in the mail to you.)



Thanks - Viki Reed & Young Arts Arizona

CASA volunteers and Juvenile Detention staff joined together on July 27 at the Durango Center to learn art concepts, techniques and applications to enable them to facilitate art sessions with CASA children and juvenile offenders. The artwork they help create with children will be framed and displayed in the waiting room at the Durango Court Center in October and November and also at the State Capitol legislative hallway during December and January.

Through artwork youth learn to "express, stretch and respect themselves". This workshop was another free event that CASA staff organized to help support its volunteers.

**Don't forget to get your CASA
children's artwork in to the CASA
office by September 15, 2000**



Otis Evans, joined the CASA staff as Office Manager on June 26 and is already making significant contributions to the program. Otis, who is well known in the Court system with almost 11 years combined experience in Adult and Juvenile Court, was born and raised in L.A. He says he 'stopped to visit in Phoenix after completing his tour of duty in the United States Air Force and is still visiting'.

Otis has always been an advocate of children's safety and welfare and believes this position will be an opportunity to help support this personal goal. Although being the first Office Manager in the Arizona CASA Program was 'a little scary at first', Otis already is viewing the position as a wonderful challenge and opportunity. Being such a large organization, the position was created to provide more continuity between the SEF and Durango offices and to help keep the paperwork flowing while adding new statistical reports to maintain the highest efficiency and provide the best program for our CASA kids.

On a personal note, Otis loves movies, and is involved in community service by providing support to two underprivileged families in the Phoenix area. He would love to have a pet (Did everyone read that) and looks forward to traveling more in Arizona and seeing sites like the Grand Canyon and the Biosphere. You may reach Otis at 506-4425 with any administrative questions dealing with the Maricopa County CASA Program.

Volunteer Profile

Marshall Porter

Marshall Porter retired from Allied Signal on April 9, 1999 after twenty-two years with the company. Only one month later he interviewed with the Maricopa County CASA program! Marshall finds that overall, people worry about their financial stability most of their lives. However, he feels emotional stability is more important and believes giving and serving others is one of the most important things a person can do. He feels 'this is your rent for being here.'

In July, 1999, he attended our CASA orientation training. He selected his first case and got started in September. Marshall is currently advocating for the same 12-year-old girl. He has seen Yvette grow from having difficulties in the group home and adjusting to moves to doing well in her current group home and being on target with her schooling. Although the case is on the third CPS case manager since he was assigned, Marshall reports that he sees the system working for her. The parties on his case are involved. They communicate and work together to do their jobs to the benefit of the child. Often he finds himself and other team members discussing Yvette's case and asking that all important question, "is this in the best interest of the child?".

He shared a recent experience on his case. A woman already involved in Yvette's life came forward expressing an interest in adopting Yvette. CPS and the CASA were right on it! They met and interviewed her and researched what steps would need to be taken to make this transition. Two weeks later, the woman changed her mind. Marshall and the CPS worker found themselves feeling dis-

appointed after all their work and time. They looked at this again from the perspective that it would not have been in the best interest of Yvette to have been placed and disrupted. Marshall says, 'sometimes being a CASA is like walking in wet sand, you look back at where you were and there are no prints'. We can all be working hard and at times feel there is nothing to show for it. When this happens, we have to start over, think about the child and not the lost work or time.

Marshall has been married for 12 years. He is the proud father of his only daughter, Alyx. She is a second year medical student at Temple in Philadelphia. He enjoys jazz music and he recently traveled to Telluride, Colorado for their annual jazz festival. He also made a trip this summer to Sacramento for the Olympic track and field trials.

Marshall volunteers and gives back to the community in many ways. Some of the other volunteer work he is involved in includes volunteering on the Speaker's Bureau for CASA. Marshall has been interviewed about his role in CASA on a local radio station program called "The Second Fifty Years". He is also involved with the Paradise Valley School District on their Citizens Curriculum Advisory Council, their Human Relations Diversity Council and the Teacher Recruitment Committee. He is on a subcommittee for the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission as well. Marshall also volunteers on the State FCRB board as an at large member for Maricopa County along with some additional subcommittees.

WOW! Hats off to Marshall for all he is doing to improve the lives of Arizona's kids.



This column spotlights the positive feedback received from interested parties involved in CASA cases.

C O M M E N D A T I O N S

CASA Lori Kirk, has been commended by the FCRB Board for her commitment to and advocacy on the children's behalf.

Thank you **Joe & Vicki Orlando** for using your digital camera to take photos of your CASA children for your court report and sharing them with the CASA office.

Jo Foster has been commended by the FCRB Board along with the case manager for their efforts on behalf of the children.

Sue Griman has been commended by the FCRB along with Janette Bell the case manager and the Mesa Crisis Center for their dedication and efforts.

Shirley Polk has been commended by the FCRB Board for her excellent efforts and her tenacity in advocating for her CASA child's best interests.

Thank you to **Alta George, Julie Lane and Louisa Jones** for submitting excellent and thorough contact logs.

Pat Willis has been commended by the FCRB Board for her active role in advocating for CASA children.



And the CASA Program would like to thank BETH BROECKER.

Her article on her CASA experience can be viewed on the internet at:

www.SALON.COM/mwt/feature/tues/2000/08/22/joshua/index.html

TRAINING

CASA Sponsored Training

Community Sponsored Training

Orientation Training, Friday, September 8, Registration from 7:00 -7:45a.m., announcements at 7:45 a.m. Training to 5p.m. Saturday, registration is from 7:45-8a.m., announcements begin at 8:00 a.m., with day ending at 4:00 p.m. Lunch is served. Two days of orientation for new CASAs. Training will be held at the Administrative Office of the Courts, 1501 W. Washington.

CASA Annual Day of Training, October 21, 2000. ASU Downtown Center, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (See more in the announcement on Page 6 under Coming Events)

Schools Without Risk, September 18 & 19. Two days of up-to-the-minute findings, strategies and programs focused on creating safe schools and preventing juvenile deviant behavior and violence. \$495 fee includes two days of training, workbook, continental breakfast and lunch for two days. Call 1-800-863-5726 for information and location.

Thanatology in 2000 - Monday, November 6, 9-5, Chandler Police Department - Grief training, including children's reactions to crises, gender differences, and working with peripheral families. \$40.00 Call 623 979-1000 for more information.

Happy
Birthday
to You!



Happy
Birthday
to You!

Catherine Brooks
Anne Murphy
Patty Duran
Susan Katerinos
Joan Smith
Nicole Ekberg
Constance Quinn
Melvin O'Donnell
Valerie Sheedy
MarieAnn Ballerino
Victoria Orlando
Rita Myrann
Bonnie Weppner-Kahn

Clifford Ford
Michelle Hagerty
Tonia Vickery
Margaret Leach
Robert Brunson
Anne Donahoe
Vicki Ruiz
Richard Brandes
Marshall Porter
Bette Saks
Pamela Frye
Barbara Ferrara

Announcements

Transitional Independent Living Opportunities for Youth - Outreach efforts will be needed to ensure that youth in foster care reaching the age 18 on or after July 18, 2000, know of their rights for extended services to age 21. Housing, support services and AHCCS health insurance are available to these young adults whether or not they remain in care voluntarily.

Also youth who have left care, but were in care at age 16, 17 or 18, are eligible for case management and support services through DES. Youth will need to work with DES to develop a plan to achieve self-sufficiency.

If you are working with eligible youth, please encourage them to take advantage of these opportunities. More details can be provided by case managers, and the DES/ACYF Independent Living Specialist, Beverlee Kroll, at 602 542.5120

Free Tickets!! Arizona Science Center. Call the CASA office. Good for one planetarium presentation or one giant-screen film. Also allows entry to exhibits. Thank you Oonagh Boppart for coordinating the donation of these tickets!

FAREWELL

**Mary Thomson, Louisa Pierce, Gloria Gray,
Dan Molinski, Ruth Castor**

And farewell to **Kristin Urquiza**, our summer temp, who is on her way back to classes at Yale in New Haven, Connecticut. Kristin was a wonderful asset to the office this summer.

And farewell to **Dylania Deans**, our Americorp intern. Dylania came to Juvenile Court from Family Advocacy Center where she served half of her term as an Americorp intern (a national volunteer service comparable in philosophy to the Peace Corps). In 1978, Dylania did an internship in Washington, D.C. with the Coalition to End Grand Jury Abuse. In collaboration with the Department of Justice, this organization succeeded in implementing guidelines on Federal Grand Jury reform, such as transactional immunity, and the right to an attorney outside of the jury room.

She attended the Universite d'Haute Bretagne in France where she also audited International law courses at the Faculte de Sciences Juridiques.

Dylania also volunteered as a CASA and took her first case.

RESOURCES: Check out www.childrenwithdisabilities.ncjrs.org for a comprehensive online guide to resources for parents and children. This includes state, federal and national resources, research, and statistics.

COMING EVENTS

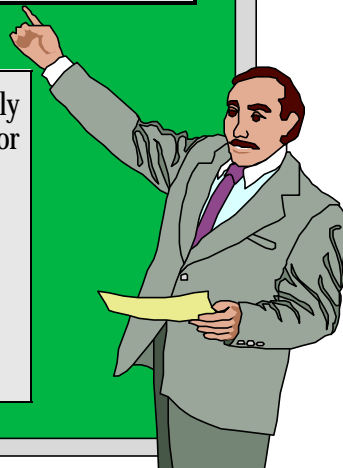
ANNUAL CASA TRAINING
ASU DOWNTOWN CENTER
OCTOBER 21, 2000
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m

Covers 6-hour yearly
training requirement for
CASAs

7 Dynamic Speakers

Lunch will be served

Free Parking



Please call today, 602 506-4083, and reserve your seat at the First Annual CASA Training Day. A full and interesting day is planned covering many subjects pertinent to the educational needs of all CASAs.

Judge Maurice Portley will open the morning session talking about court reports and what he likes to see in them, followed by a Q&A session. He will be joined by Judge Rebecca Albrecht. Susan Smith, a training officer for CPS will do a one-hour training session on Domestic Violence and what

CASAs should do once they know DV is a factor in their case. We also have Elizabeth Dunn, a child and family practice therapist speaking on attachment disorder, and Dr. William Fulton speaking on psychotropic drugs, along with two other dynamic speakers, Jane Wabnik, speaking on cultural diversity and Alice Burba speaking on grief therapy for children.

There is limited seating so reserve your spot now. No fee will be charged to CASAs for this wonderful day of learning and interaction with other CASAs.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Kappa Alpha Theta's Fourth Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction to benefit CASA and Sunshine Acres Group Home. Saturday, November 11 from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in Paradise Valley. Call Sherri Koshiol for more information - 480 821.4659

Heaven - Two days in Pinetop

Thanks to Terri Page, Arizona CASA Program Training Specialist, for setting up the Dependent Children's Services CASA Administrative Training in Pinetop on August 10 and 11. And thanks to all the volunteers who attended.

And a special thank you to Michael Neary whose presentation on *Adolescent Development Issues* focused on understanding adolescent behavior by utilizing a bio-psycho-social model, adolescent drugs of choice and the relationship between adolescent development and high risk behavior.

Mr. Neary's 15 years' experience in the field and his reputation as an internationally known lecturer was evident. His training was practical, informative and very entertaining.



Please Help Us Recruit More CASAs



Enclosed in this newsletter is a flyer to be distributed in your neighborhood on a community bulletin board or apt/condo notice board or maybe in your place of worship. Just another way we are trying to increase our membership. Cut along the perforation indicator and tack it up. Your extra effort is really appreciated. Thank you.



P .S. (We welcome a diverse volunteer membership)



About the Author



TEENS ON TRIAL

Young People Who Challenged the Law-- And Changed Your Life

by Thomas A. Jacobs, J.D.

208 pp, \$14.95 Ages 12+

Free Spirit Press, Minneapolis, Mn.
(Available in the Durango Library)

A Juvenile Court Judge Uncovers the Fascinating Stories of
Teen Trailblazers Who Took their Cases to the Supreme Court

Does "free speech" apply to teens?

Can a teenage girl get an abortion with informing her parents?

Can teachers use physical punishment on disobedient students?

Can a teen be sentenced to death?

These issues may have been decided by the Supreme Court, but they were brought to the court's attention by teens. Who are these young people and what did they do, get caught doing, or refuse to do that brought their cases before the highest court in the land?

Maricopa County Juvenile Court Commissioner Thomas A. Jacobs provides a fascinating look at dozens of teenage legal trailblazers - from the 1920's to the year 2000 -- who had the courage to challenge the system and often changed the law. Commissioner Jacobs makes real the legal process of taking a case "all the way to the Supreme Court" by revealing the compelling stories behind 21 landmark, teen-initiated decisions and analyzing how their actions have affected your life.

- *Can parents search their teenager's room?*
- *Can a teen be kicked out of school for having green hair?*
- *Can teens be required to pray?*

Commissioner Jacobs cuts through the legalese by clarifying terms and procedures. He demystifies the system but he never diminishes its importance. "Many people think that the court system is mysterious or confusing. The law isn't the exclusive property of lawyers and judges. Nor does it serve only adults," he says.

"The law is for the people-and that includes teens. When young people understand how the courts work, they have the knowledge that help them achieve fairness in their own life and in the lives of others." "Teens don't have to be silent or invisible. They can - and should- responsibly exercise their First Amendment right to freedom of expression in areas of significance in their lives. In other words, if you feel deeply about something, do your research and take your stand."

With a nonjudgmental look at landmark decisions, **TEENS ON TRIAL** explores the tough issues by examining the cases that challenged, changed, or upheld the law. The book is easy to read, reviewing each case in detail, explaining the issues involved and the ruling, and offering questions that teachers and parents can use to encourage further study and debate.

Thomas A. Jacobs, J.D., served as an Arizona Assistant Attorney General from 1972 to 1985 handling civil, criminal, and child welfare matters. In 1985, he was appointed to the Maricopa County Superior Court, Juvenile Division, where he presides over delinquency, dependency, severance, and adoption cases.

Commissioner Jacobs' first book, **What Are My Rights?**, was honored as a Book for the Teen Age by the New York Public Library system and called "an exceptionally solid guide for teens" by *School Library Journal*.

A regular speaker and instructor at community functions and educational programs, he also serves as an adjunct professor at the Arizona State University School of Social Work.

....submitted by free spirit publishing

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF CASA VOLUNTEERS

87.36% of CASA Volunteers are women
12.64% are men

Our goal at the CASA Program is to **greatly increase** male representation.

✱

85.61% are Anglo-American
7.2% are African-American
4.55% are Latino-American
1.5% are Asian-American
.76% are Native-American

It is our goal at the CASA Program to recruit volunteers from **ALL** ethnicities and to increase our representation among minority ethnicities.

✱

CASA volunteers are aged as follows:

45% are between 51-99
28.46% are between 41-50
17.31% are between 31-40
9.23% are between 21-30

The CASA Program needs volunteers from **ALL** age groups

✱

58.02% have completed college
41.98% have not completed a bachelors degree
The CASA Program provides all the training necessary to be an effective and powerful voice in a child's life!




✱

58.8% of CASA Volunteers work full time
19.08% are retired
16.79% are unemployed
5.34% are students



CASA PROGRAM STAFF

DURANGO



Nancy Molever	602.506.5221
Leslie Blakley	602.506.4082
Stephanie Culberson	602.506.3934
La Donna Moss	602.506.3930
Esparanza Tavena	602.506.4083
Otis Evans	602.506-4425

MESA - (SEF)




Melissa Adomeit	602.506.3935
Katrisha Stuler	602.506.3379












CASA VOLUNTEER MENTORS



Angela Ashley	480 922.5760
Beverly Burch	480 585.3042
Anne Donahoe	480 948.8540
Margo Fitts	602 473.0914
Jackie Flowers	602 265.3565
Dana Gilroy	480 283.1876
Hart Gottliebson	602 242.2397
Lynda Pederson	602 996.9394
Karen Tyrrell	480 839.4039
Linda Warfield	602 971.0677



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